

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A substrate for an information recording medium, which is formed of a glass having a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 600°C or higher and having an etching rate of 0.1 $\mu\text{m}/\text{minute}$ or less with regard to a hydrosilicofluoric acid aqueous solution that is maintained at a temperature of 45°C and has a hydrosilicofluoric acid concentration of 1.72 % by weight.

2. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO and K_2O as essential components.

3. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 2, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 45 to 70 % of SiO_2 , 1 to 15 % of Al_2O_3 , the total content of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 being 57 to 85 %, 2 to 25 % of CaO , 0 to 15 % of BaO , 0 to 15 % of MgO , 0 to 15 % of SrO , 0 to 10 % of ZnO , the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO , BaO and ZnO being 2 to 30 %, more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of K_2O , 0 to 8 % of Li_2O , 0 to 8 % of Na_2O , the total content of K_2O , Li_2O and Na_2O being 2 to 15 %, 0 to 12 % of ZrO_2 and 0 to 10 % of TiO_2 , the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

4. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO , Na_2O and K_2O and has a chemically strengthened layer.

5. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 4, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of SiO_2 , 1 to 10 % of Al_2O_3 , the total content of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of CaO , 1 to 15 % of BaO , 1 to 10 % of Na_2O , more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of K_2O , 0 to 3 % of Li_2O , the total content of Na_2O , K_2O and Li_2O being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of ZrO_2 , 0 to 10 % of MgO , 0 to 15 % of SrO , 0 to 10 % of ZnO , the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO , BaO and ZnO being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of CaO to the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO and BaO being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of TiO_2 , the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

6. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO , BaO , Na_2O and ZrO_2 as essential components and has a chemically strengthened layer,

7. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 6, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of SiO_2 , 1 to 10 % of Al_2O_3 , the total content of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of

CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 1 to 10 % of Na₂O, 0 to 15 % of K₂O, 0 to 3 % of Li₂O, the total content of Na₂O, K₂O and Li₂O being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of ZrO₂, 0 to 10 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of ZnO, the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO and ZnO being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of CaO to the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO and BaO being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of TiO₂, the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

8. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, which is for use in a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

9. (currently amended) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

10. (original) The information recording medium as recited in claim 8, which is a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode magnetic recording medium.

11. (currently amended) A process for manufacturing an information recording medium, which comprises the step of forming an information recording layer on a substrate for an information recording medium and uses the substrate for an information

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recording medium recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1 as said substrate, said step
comprising the procedure of heating said substrate to a temperature of 300 to 600°C.